

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAB-01 /070 W

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R 181413Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE 4628

INFO AMEMBASY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS/ XF

SUBJECT: GOI REACTION TO WEST BANK DISTURBANCES

1. IN WAKE OF VIOLENT WEEKEND DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEVERAL WEST BANK CITIES WHICH LEFT AT LEAST ONE TEEN-AGE GIRL DEAD DEFMIN PERES HAS MADE CLEAR THAT GOI INTENDS TO KEEP SECURITY SITUATION UNDER FIRM CONTROL.

2. IN TV INTERVIEW NOV 16, PERES MAINTAINED THAT ISRAEL TREATED ARABS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITH RESPECT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THEY WOULD NOT FALL VICTIM TO EXTREMISM TO WHICH REST OF ARAB WORLD APPEARED TO HAVE SUCCUMBED. PERES SAID ISRAEL WOULD CONDUCT DIALOGUE EITHER WITH REPRESENTATIVE ELEMENTS OF TERRORISTS OR WITH KING HUSSEIN. HOWEVER, SUCH DIALOGUE WOULD NOT BE HELD UNDER THREAT OF LIQUIDATION OF ISRAEL.

3. IN NOV 17 SPEECH, PERES SAID IF ARABS AGAIN BECOME
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ENSNARED IN EXTREMISM THE VICTIMS WILL NOT BE ISRAELIS

BUT ARABS THEMSELVES. ALSO NOV 17, PERES MET WITH MAYOR AND NOTABLES OF NABLUS (WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS QUIET OVER WEEKEND AFTER DEMONSTRATIONS THERE NOV 13 AND 14). ACCORDING GOI PRESS BULLETIN, DEFMIN TOLD THEM "ANY VIOLENT EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS DEMONSTRATIONS OR STRIKES WOULD BE DEALT WITH UNRESTRAINEDLY BY THE AUTHORITIES...THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE OR TERRORISM".

4. BY AFTERNOON OF NOV 15, IDF WAS MAKING IT UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR THAT IT INTENDED TO ASSUME FIRM CONTROL OF SECURITY SITUATION AND ISRAELI FORCES WERE CONSPICUOUSLY EVIDENT IN WEST BANK POPULATED AREAS.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT GOI WILL DO WHATEVER IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER SECURITY SITUATION ON WESTBANK. STATEMENTS BY PERES, TOGETHER WITH TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OVERWEEKEND THAT SECURITY FORCES ARE PREPARED TO TAKE FIRM ACTION ARE UNDOUBTEDLY CONSIDERED BY GOI AS "FAIR WARNING" TO RESTIVE WEST ELEMENTS. IF IN PRESENT UNSETTLED ATMOSPHERE THAT MUST BE CHOICE BETWEEN RISK OF ALIENATING WEST BANK POPULATION AND ESCALATING DISORDER,GOI WILL OBVIOUSLY CHOOSE FORMER.
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